

Appln No.: 09/874,137
Amdt. dated Nov. 25, 2003
Reply to Office action dated June 26, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are pending.

The proposed drawing corrections, filed on April 8, 2003, were approved by the Examiner. The amended drawings are submitted herewith.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments place this application in condition for allowance. The Final Office action, dated June 26, 2003, rejected claims 1-3, and 5, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Mott, U.S. Patent No. 5,464,374, and Japanese publication, JP No. 4046241. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Mott, JP No. 4046241, and Matsuda, U.S. Patent No. 6,155,944.

Claims 6, 8-10 and 14-15 were allowed. Claim 14 is rewritten to include the subject matter of Claim 1 from which it depended. The Office action also stated that claims 16 and 17 were allowable if rewritten to include the subject matter of Claim 6 from which they depend. Applicants submit that as Claim 6 was allowed it is not necessary to do so and Claims 16 and 17 should be allowed.

Claim 1-3, 5, 11 and 12 are amended to clarify that the claimed silent chains are configured to reduce and/or eliminate the wear on chain guide surfaces caused by the conventional alignment of the surfaces of guide plates and link plate. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed silent chains are not disclosed or suggested by Mott or JP No. 4046241 taken alone or in combination. The Japanese publication, in fact, teaches away from the claimed silent chain and the combination of Mott with JP No. 4046241 asserted by the Office Action.

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As indicated in Figures 7 and 8 of the Japanese publication, the contact surfaces of both the link plates and the guide plates in that reference contact the chain guide. The chain guide in Figure 8, in fact, is configured to encourage the engagement of all of the link and guide plate contact surfaces with the chain guide. The Japanese publication does not suggest that either the link or guide plate contact surfaces should be spaced from the chain guide when the chain is engaged, or the desirability of limiting contact between the guide and the chain to only certain chain link surfaces.

Similarly, Mott does not disclose or discuss the desirability of orienting selected surfaces guide and/or link plate contact surfaces to engage a chain guide. Neither Mott nor the Japanese publication, in addition, suggest the reduction of wear on the chain guide through the claimed use of pin hole clearances and pin hole center line to contact surface distances that, depending on the claimed chain configuration, position the link plate contact surfaces to contact the chain guide, while holding the guide link surfaces away from the guide, or the claimed alternative configurations.

Thus, there is no disclosure or suggestion of Applicants' silent chain of Claims 1-3, 5, 11 and 12, or motivation in the references or the art in general as established in the Office Action to provide that necessary motivation to combine the references. Specifically, while Mott depicts link plates with a clearance between a pin and link plate pin opening, *i.e.* Mott, Figure 3, this does not necessarily and inherently disclose or suggest the claimed chain. See for example Figures 8 and 9 of the application showing conventional chains where there also is a clearance between the link pin and link pin

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opening, but that clearance is such that only the guide plate contacts (and damages) the chain guide.

The same is true for alternative embodiments using link plates with dual teeth above and below the pin opening, or other configurations where the link plate teeth can cause significant damage to the chain guide. There is no suggestion in any of the references that the guide plate should be configured to maintain contact with the chain guide while the link plate teeth are spaced from, and out of contact with the chain guide. Thus, the silent chain of Claim 4 is not suggested or disclosed by the cited references, together or separately.

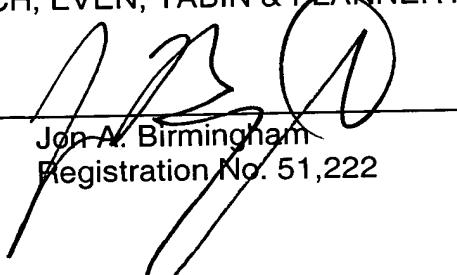
For the reasons set forth above, claims 1-5 and 11-15 are believed to be allowable, and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 and 11-15 are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees required by this amendment to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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